



Press release

New Secretary General of the European Research Council

2 July 2009

As of 1 July 2009, Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell is the new Secretary General of the European Research Council (ERC). He is taking over from Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, who successfully completed his term of office.

Andreu Mas-Colell was to date Professor of Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and Chairman of the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics. In 2006, he was President of the European Economic Association. He is known for his highly successful initiatives as Minister of Universities, Research and the Information Society in Catalonia (2000-2003). He established a series of institutes, research infrastructures and a publicly funded innovative foundation (ICREA) for recruiting international top researchers. ERC President Prof. Fotis Kafatos said: *"I am delighted to have Prof. Mas-Colell on board as new Secretary General and welcome him warmly also on behalf of the Scientific Council. As a highly distinguished researcher and policy leader, he has our full confidence in this new role. His contribution will be of utmost importance as the European Research Council - now in full flight - enters its next phase in which further development of the organisation and new challenges lie ahead."*

After Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker's loyal service and commitment to the setting up the ERC, he now moves on to a new challenge as Secretary General of the *Human Frontier Science Program Organization* (HFSP) in Strasbourg, France. President Kafatos said: *"It has been a great privilege to have Prof. Winnacker as our first Secretary General, a function he fulfilled with great skill and commitment throughout his term of office. On behalf of the ERC Scientific Council, I thank Prof. Winnacker for his invaluable contribution. He has been a key figure in the demanding start-up phase of the ERC, bringing outstanding experience and wisdom to this important role. I take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes to him as he embarks on his next journey in the field of excellence in research."*



Note to the editors

In 2006, the ERC Scientific Council announced its first two consecutive Secretary Generals for the initial five years of ERC operation. Prof. Winnacker was appointed for a two and a half year mandate as the first Secretary General from February 2007 till June 2009 and, at the same time, Prof. Mas-Colell was announced as his successor for the period July 2009 till December 2011.

The selections of the two Secretary Generals in 2006 were the outcome of a recruitment process conducted autonomously by the Scientific Council and based rigorously on relevant experience and scientific qualifications. Following an assessment and short-listing by an internal recruitment committee, the Scientific Council interviewed the leading candidates, held a vote and agreed on the final decision.

The ERC Secretary General has a key role in ensuring the integrated operation of the ERC, based on the strategy and programme of activities prepared by the ERC Scientific Council. He is a member of the ERC Board, working together with the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Scientific Council as well as with the Director of the ERC Executive Agency to oversee the implementation of the ERC strategy and work programme prepared by the Scientific Council.

For more information:

Prof. Mas-Colell's biography

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=481>

ERC Scientific Council announcement, 30 August 2006

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/press_statement_erc_secgen_300806_en.pdf

HFSP Press Release, 9 June 2008

http://www.hfsp.org/About/PDFs/Appointment_ELWinnacker_2008.pdf

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>

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